

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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LETTER DATED 15 MAY 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CHINA TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE TRANSMITTING THE TEXT OF THE STATEMENT ISSUED ON 14 MAY 1998 BY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF CHINA CONCERNING INDIA'S NUCLEAR TESTS

I have the honour to transmit to you the statement issued on 14 May 1998 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China concerning India's nuclear tests.

I would be grateful if this statement could be circulated as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament. Attached please find the official translation of the statement in English.

(Signed)

Li Changhe

Ambassador for Disarmament Affairs

Head of the Delegation of the People's
Republic of China to the CD

**Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of
the People's Republic of China
(May 14, 1998)**

In disregard of the strong opposition of the international community, the Indian government conducted two more nuclear tests on May 13 following May 11 nuclear tests. The Chinese Government is deeply shocked by this and hereby expresses its strong condemnation. This act of India's is nothing but an outrageous contempt for the common will of the international community for the comprehensive ban on nuclear tests and a hard blow on the international effort to prevent nuclear weapon proliferation. It will entail serious consequences to the peace and stability in South Asia and the world at large. The international community should adopt a common position in strongly demanding India to immediately stop the development of nuclear weapons.

The Indian government itself has undermined the international effort in banning nuclear tests in defiance of universal condemnation so as to obtain the hegemony in South Asia and triggered off nuclear arms race in the region. And yet it has maliciously accused China of posing a nuclear threat to India. This is utterly groundless. Ever since China possessed nuclear weapons, it has advocated the complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons and has unilaterally and unconditionally undertaken not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapon states and nuclear free zones. This gratuitous accusation by India against China is solely for the purpose of finding an excuse for the development of its nuclear weapons. The Chinese Government will continue to closely watch the development of the situation.